



Clearinghouse on Women's Issues

November 2018 CWI Newsletter

<https://womensclearinghouse.org>

Invitation to Tuesday, November 27, 2018 CWI Meeting

**Noon-1:30 PM at the Alliance for Justice, 11 Dupont Circle NW, 5th Floor; entrance on New Hampshire Ave.,
(Nearest Metro Stop: Dupont Circle, either exit)**

RSVP for the meeting is now needed. See <https://womensclearinghouse.org>

Post-election Results and the Impact on Women's Issues

Although the 2018 mid-term elections are still not completely decided, many of the results bode well for women's rights and progressive change. One thing is certain - it was an election in which women were heard. As candidates for Congress, Statehouses, state and local governments, there were record numbers of women. Women voters also made their presence known. Was it the effect of Kavanaugh, #MeToo, gun violence, health care? Probably all of that and more. Even as the recounts continue, CWI will turn to the impact of these elections at our Nov. 27 noon meeting. We have arranged for speakers from key women's rights groups to discuss the impact of the election on women and families. They include YWCA's VP Catherine Beane who is responsible for their recent report, "What Women Want 2018." We are also happy to have the National Organization for Women (NOW) President Toni Van Pelt and NOW's longtime program director, Jan Erickson, and National Women's Law Center (NWLC) Vice President Anna Chu.

Catherine Beane is Vice President of Public Policy and Advocacy at [YWCA USA](http://YWCAUSA.org), where she leads efforts to impact legislation and policy related to racial justice and civil rights, women's empowerment, economic advancement, and women's health and safety. Most recently, she addressed gender equity, school discipline, and student achievement issues for the National Education Association, and served as the policy director for the Children's Defense Fund. She began her career as a trial attorney representing indigent youth and adults in juvenile and criminal proceedings. She earned her B.A. from Emory University, and her J.D. from Catholic University of America.

Toni Van Pelt took office as NOW President in August 2017 and also serves as the President of the NOW Foundation and Chair of the NOW Political Action Committee. She has been a NOW leader since 1989 starting in the Upper Pinellas NOW Chapter and later as President of Florida NOW and regional director of the National NOW Board. She co-founded and later served as President and Public Policy Director of the Institute for Science and Human Values. As director of the DC public policy office of the secular humanist movement Toni lobbied for policies driven by the empirical scientific evidence as opposed to faith. Earlier in her career she worked for Northwest Orient Airlines and owned a travel agency. She is committed to building an inclusive, intersectional, and intergenerational feminist movement.

Jan Erickson is Director of Government Relations for NOW and also serves as Director of Programs for NOW Foundation. She is the primary staff member responsible for the organization's work on reproductive rights, educational equity, economic equity, retirement security, violence against women and women's health issues, among others. Jan has also been a professional staff member in the U.S. Senate, in a governor's office and with a state legislature. While working in the Alaska State Legislature she was instrumental in securing state ratification in 1972 of the federal Equal Rights Amendment and adoption of a state Equal Rights Amendment. In addition, she organized a statewide coalition in 1970-71 to successfully repeal the state's restrictive abortion laws. Erickson has also staffed, managed, and consulted in more than 30 local and state election campaigns. She taught journalism at the high school level and worked for three newspapers, and wrote a column on women's rights. She graduated from the University of Alaska-Anchorage, served as Alaska State President for NOW in the mid-1980s and co-chaired the State NOW PAC.

Anna Chu is Vice President for Strategy and Policy, National Women's Law Center. She previously served as the Vice President of Policy and Research at the Center for American Progress (CAP) Action Fund, leading its economic justice advocacy work, and directed CAP's Middle Out Economic Program. She also served as the Policy Director for the Democratic Senatorial Campaign Committee, and as Policy Advisor for the House Democratic Caucus. After attending the University of Southern California Law School, Chu began her career as a law clerk to former Chief Judge Jane A. Restani in six different federal appellate courts. Following this, Chu spent time as an attorney at Paul Hastings, Janofsky & Walker LLP.

CWI meetings are free and open to the public. Bring your lunch and information to share.

RSVP for Program to attend the meeting is now required for security purposes. Go to <https://womensclearinghouse.org>

Next CWI Meeting, Noon Tuesday, January 22, 2019.

Dear CWI Members,

Thanks to Eleanor Smeal for this 11-8-18 press release about mid-term election results including the 501 (c)4 Feminist Majority endorsement of many feminist candidates at the Federal and State levels. We are proud that the Feminist Majority's sister organization the 501 (c)3 Feminist Majority Foundation which is also headed by Ellie Smeal, is an organizational member of the Clearinghouse on Women's Issues. While this press release mentions endorsing women and men Democratic candidates, since the Clearinghouse on Women's Issues (CWI) is non-partisan organization, CWI would also be happy to publicize information on other victorious candidates who are supportive of issues to help women achieve equality. Cordially, Harriett Stonehill and Sue Klein, Co-Presidents of CWI.



FEMINIST MAJORITY

30 Years of Working for Women's Equality from the Streets to the Legislature

This year, the Feminist Majority endorsed its largest field of U.S. House candidates since its founding in 1987—92 new House candidates (67 women and 25 men) and 91 incumbent House candidates. In the House races, all of our endorsed incumbents won and as many as 34 of our endorsed new women candidates and 16 of our endorsed new men candidates won, contributing to the 116th Congress's Democratic majority in the House of Representatives. All of the candidates we endorsed support access to abortion and birth control as well as equality for women, LGBTQ rights, civil rights, healthcare access, education equity, and economic justice.

The newly elected Democratic women make up over 60% of the Democratic gains. They are a very diverse group including the 2016 Teacher of the Year, a former military helicopter pilot, a former CIA officer, veterans, small business owners, non-profit organization leaders, social workers, lawyers, health care workers, public servants, and state legislators. They include African Americans and Latinas, the first two Native American women, the first two Muslim women, and the youngest women ever to be elected to Congress.

On the Senate side, nine Feminist Majority endorsed women incumbents were re-elected while two were defeated. We were also proud to endorse new candidates Jacky Rosen, who won in Nevada, and Kyrsten Sinema, who was in the too-close-to-call Arizona race that will not be decided for several more days.

The Feminist Majority's Students Vote, Students Win independent expenditure campaign was determined to increase the feminist vote among young people, hiring some 200 campus organizers to rally students to the polls. Those organizers recruited over 2000 volunteers working on campuses in Arizona, Nevada, Pennsylvania, Virginia, and North Dakota to get out the youth feminist vote.

Young voters nationwide turned out in record numbers, favoring Democrats by an overwhelming 2 to 1 margin, according to exit polls. Turnout rates for 18-29 year olds hit 31% in 2018 up from 21% in 2014, according to data from CIRCLE.

In Nevada, turnout among 18-29 year olds in 2018 was estimated at twice the turnout in 2014, according to the Institute of Politics at Harvard Kennedy School of Government. Turnout was even higher at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas and the University of Nevada, Reno where Feminist Majority organizers worked to mobilize student voters. UNLV turnout was 120% the rate from 2014 and at UNR, turnout was

more than 300% what it was in 2014, according to NextGen.

Lines of college students waiting to vote were so long at Arizona State University that the Feminist Majority protested and worked with election lawyers to double the number of voting stations in the late afternoon. Even with the additional stations, the final students at ASU could not vote until more than 2 and ½ hours after the polls closed.

At the statewide level the Feminist Majority endorsed women candidates for governor who won in Maine, Kansas, Michigan, Rhode Island, Oregon, and New Mexico, with a possibility of a recount and victory in Georgia. The women Democratic gubernatorial wins represent a historic breakthrough.

In 1987 when the Feminist Majority began, women comprised 5% of Congress. In 1992, after five years of our Feminization of Power campaign and the Year of Women, women comprised 10% of Congress. With the midterm elections of 2018, women will comprise 23% of the Members of Congress with over 100 women in the House and 23 women in the Senate. There is still a long way to go to equality but with determination we will get there at a faster and faster rate with more diversity and more feminist women and men.

For Women's Lives,



Eleanor Smeal
President

CWI Meeting Summary, October 23, 2018 **Protecting Every Vote: Procedures for Safe and Fair Elections**

On October 23, 2018, CWI hosted a panel discussion entitled, “Protecting Every Vote: Procedures for Safe and Fair Elections.” This event included high-level experts from the League of Women Voters, Common Cause, and the Campaign Legal Center, who highlighted how we can make sure our elections are safe and fair, and encourage voter participation, while eliminating suppression efforts. This meeting was organized and chaired by **Megan Corrado, Esq., CWI Vice President, Global Issues**. You may view the event on CWI’s YouTube page by clicking [here](#).



Presenters left to right: Megan Corrado, Erin Chlopak, Allegra Chapman, Jeanette Senecal



Jeanette Senecal, Senior Director of Mission Impact, League of Women Voters, joined the [League](#) in 1999 as part of the e-Democracy team. With a background in tackling community improvement challenges in multi-cultural environments, she helped develop DemocracyNet, a first-of-its-kind voter information website that helped alter how voters interacted with candidates, campaigns, and democracy. Ms. Senecal's work with the over 500 DemocracyNet employees and volunteers nationwide provided the lessons and a roadmap to launch the League's award-winning [VOTE411.org](#) website in 2006. Ms. Senecal also leads the League's efforts on issues such as reforming and modernizing election laws and expanding civic engagement and empowerment opportunities for all voters. Much of Ms. Senecal's expertise focuses on helping Leagues and volunteers innovate and engage with voters both off- and on-line and providing ongoing strategic guidance to Leagues and partners alike. As senior director for elections, she also heads up initiatives such as the Public Advocacy for Voter Protection project and voter registration programs in high schools, community colleges, and naturalization ceremonies that protect and reach out to the nation's underrepresented voters. Ms. Senecal attended St. Lawrence University, where she received a BA in Government and Environmental Studies and an MA in International Affairs from George Washington University.

Ms. Senecal discussed expanding civic engagement and empowerment opportunities for all voters, and provided immediate strategies to improve and monitor elections and the importance of creating a voting plan. She provided statistics about voter eligibility, discriminatory voter laws, and practical challenges voters face in seeking to exercise their rights. Ms. Senecal stressed that get-out-the-vote efforts are more important than ever in light of voter suppression initiatives, such as gerrymandering schemes, stringent voter identification (ID) laws, and voter ID matching requirements. Despite these issues, the current mid-term election cycle offers significant hope in the unprecedented diversity in candidates at all levels, a historical number of competitive races in previously safe districts, the exceedingly high rate of grassroots, small-batch fundraising, and the increase in voter engagement, such as through the traffic on the League's website inquiring as to how to register and participate in the upcoming election. Ms. Senecal affirmed the need to convey positive messages about the election to help deter hopelessness about individual voter impact, as well as concerns about election integrity and security, which tend to depress low propensity voters and quash voter enthusiasm. She reminded the group that when one person does not vote, s/he provides the opposing candidate double the power and votes—the one s/he receives from her/his own supporters, and the one surrendered.



Allegra Chapman, Director of Voting and Elections, Common Cause, joined the [organization](#) in July 2014. She leads national and state efforts to reduce barriers to voting and to ensure that elections are run efficiently and fairly throughout the country. An attorney, Ms. Chapman was staff counsel for Demos from 2008-2011. There, she engaged in litigation and negotiations in several states to enforce Section 7 of the National Voter Registration Act, which requires public assistance agencies to provide voter registration services to their clients. She also helped defend the constitutionality of New York's statute eliminating prison-based gerrymandering and worked on other elector reforms, including Election Day voter registration. From 2011 until joining Common Cause, Ms. Chapman was an Assistant Attorney General in the Civil Rights Bureau for the State of New York, where she brought actions for violations of federal, state, and local civil rights laws on employment discrimination, racial profiling in public accommodations, religious rights infringements, and police matters, amongst others. Her previous positions include attorney for MFY Legal Services in New York, where she litigated in housing court and under the Americans with Disabilities Act; attorney for Lansner and Kubitschek, where she practiced family constitutional law; and law clerk for D.C. Superior Court Judge Michael Rankin. Ms. Chapman earned her BA in Philosophy

from McGill University and her JD from Emory University Law School. She is a member of the New York Bar.

Ms. Chapman discussed election integrity, voting protection mechanisms and strategies, and the ways in which every vote can be accurately counted. She highlighted the ways in which our laws and political culture create obstacles to

voting, resting the burden on election participation on the individual citizen, despite the need for widespread participation for the health of democracy. Ms. Chapman noted that registration is the biggest barrier to voting, resulting in a massive disparity in registration rates amongst people of color and low-income voters versus high-income voters to the detriment of historically marginalized groups. These groups are further inhibited from exercising their right to vote by health and mobility challenges, polling station distance from their home or place of employment, and inability to leave work during the hours in which the polls are open. One way to encourage voter participation, often employed in other long-established democracies around the world, includes automatic registration, wherein interaction with any government agency, such as the Department of Motor Vehicles or Internal Revenue Service, results in individuals' automatic registration to vote, providing s/he meets the basic standards of age and citizenship. Additional efforts to overcome voter suppression and apathy include widespread voter education campaigns to ensure people know their rights and the importance of their individual vote. Ms. Chapman concluded her presentation with a discussion of the current situation in Georgia, wherein voters that have not cast a ballot in three years have been purged from the voter rolls, and the ways in which court decisions have given states the power to institute discriminatory policies, such as the voter ID match requirement.



Erin Chlopak, Senior Legal Counsel, Campaign Legal Center (CLC), Erin Chlopak joined CLC in August 2018, after spending nearly a decade working on a wide range of campaign finance issues in the Federal Election Commission's (FEC) Office of General Counsel. Her areas of focus include CLC's appellate and district court litigation and its Federal Reform and State and Local Reform programs. From 2017 to 2018, Ms. Chlopak served as the head of the FEC's Policy Division, overseeing all of the Division's work on FEC regulations, advisory opinions, and other legal policy guidance. From 2009 to 2017, Ms. Chlopak worked in the FEC's Litigation Division as a staff attorney and then as Assistant General Counsel, litigating numerous constitutional and other campaign finance cases. She has argued before federal district and appellate courts, including before the en banc U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit in *Holmes v. FEC*, in which the court unanimously upheld the federal pre-election limits on individual contributions to candidates. Ms. Chlopak began her legal career as a litigation associate at Sullivan & Cromwell, after clerking for Judge Helen Gillmor of the U.S. District Court for the District of Hawaii. She received her BA from Johns Hopkins University and her JD from American University's Washington College of Law.

Ms. Chlopak discussed campaign finance laws and the ways in which they affect elections and disenfranchise certain voters. She highlighted the key Supreme and Appellate Court cases that have given rise to the current interpretation of the campaign finance legal regime, illuminating the role of money in politics. A series of recent judicial decisions have chipped away at laws restricting donation amounts and requiring donor disclosures, creating a climate wherein a small and unrepresentative group of wealthy individuals and corporations now have an overwhelming amount of influence over politics to the detriment of lower-income, more diverse populations. This influence undermines the concept of self-government and the meaning of the First Amendment in and of itself. The [Campaign Legal Center](http://www.campaignlegalcenter.org) is working to create robust public financing systems, which allow for more grassroots participation in campaigns, fight for anti-gerrymandering measures, regulate campaign advertisements to foster transparency, enhance donor disclosure, and hold the FEC to account.

Coming DC Area and National Feminist Events and Resources

We will send selected events to CWI members on our e-mailing list. Please send your upcoming feminist events to post in CWI newsletters to president@womensclearinghouse.org. Check out CWI's Facebook www.facebook.com/womensclearinghouse and Twitter www.twitter.com/CWINews pages! LIKE and FOLLOW us, as well as SUBSCRIBE and LIKE our video sponsor & provider <https://www.youtube.com/user/Hanburycross>. Times are EST.

November

Tuesday, November 27, 2018. 12-1:30 PM, Outcomes of the November Elections: New Leaders for a New Era
Clearinghouse on Women's Issues located at Alliance for Justice, 11 Dupont Circle, 5th Floor; entrance on New Hampshire Avenue NW.

Tuesday, November 27, 2018. 6:30-8:00 PM. A Night of Suffrage Theater, National Woman's Party, Belmont-Paul Women's Equality National Monument, 144 Constitution Ave NE, Washington, DC 20002. [For More Information](#)

December

Monday, December 3, 2018, 9AM to 12:30 PM. Open Debate: Femicide in the Americas, Organization of American States, 200 17th St. NW, Washington, DC 20006. [Attend Event](#)

Monday, December 3, 2018. 6:30-8:30 PM. ERA: One State Away from Constitutionality. Ellie Smeal, Eileen Davis, Andrea Miller & Wendy Murphy. Woman's National Democratic Club 1526 New Hampshire Ave. NW, DC 20036 [Registration](#) Fee \$15 Young Dems or \$25 non-member.

Wednesday, December 5, 9-11AM. Release of Report *Do the Harder Work--Create Cultures of Connectedness in Schools: A Youth and Parent Organizer Response to the Federal Commission on School Safety.* Communities for Just Schools Fund, National Press Club, 529 14th St. NW, Fourth Estate Room, Washington, DC 20045. [RSVP](#)

Thursday, December 6. 7-8:30 PM. Women and the Vote: Opposition to Women's Equality, from Suffrage to ERA. National Archives, William G. McGowan Theater, 700 Pennsylvania Ave NW, Washington, DC 20408. [For more information.](#)

Tuesday, December 10, 2018, Memorial for Arvonne Fraser. Evening. Woman's National Democratic Club. Whittemore House, 1526 New Hampshire Ave, NW, DC 20036. For more information see www.democraticwoman.org

The CWI Board of Directors selected these potential Tuesday, Noon CWI meeting topics for 2019:

January 22, 2019. Tentative Topic: **Using Media Safely, Expeditiously, and Effectively to Empower our Feminist Organizations.** Organizers: Loretto Gubernatis and Sherry Klein.

February 26, 2019. **Ensuring that the 2020 Census Does Not Discriminate against Immigrants and Others.** Organizers: Jeanette Lim Esbrook and Megan Corrado.

March 26, 2019. **Potential Collaboration between the National Women's History Museum and the Smithsonian's American Women's History Initiative.** Organizers: Sue Klein and Holly Joseph

April 23, 2019. **Financial Literacy** Organizers: Connie Cordovilla and Anne Martin

May 21, 2019. **A Feminist Approach to U.S. Foreign Policy.** Organizer: Megan Corrado

June 18, 2019. **Collaboration Among Women's Organizations.** Organizers: TBD.

Important Vacancy Notice

The CWI Board is looking for a member to join the Board and serve as **CWI Secretary**. Join a dynamic team that plans and coordinates CWI programs and coordinates with other feminist and social justice organizations. Don't delay, contact any of our Board members listed below.

CWI's newsletter is endowed by friends in loving memory of our longtime editor Roslyn Kaiser.

Meeting summary Connie Cordovilla and Sarah Timmerman, FMF Intern. Newsletter edited by Sue Klein

CWI BOARD OF DIRECTORS, JULY 2018 – JUNE 2020

OFFICERS: Co-Presidents, Sue Klein and Harriett Stonehill; VP Membership, Linda Fihelly; Treasurer, Holly Taggart Joseph; VP Media, Loretto Gubernatis; VP Legal Affairs, Jeanette Lim Esbrook; VP Technology, Sherry Klein; VP Global Issues, Megan Corrado; VP Strategic Planning, Connie Cordovilla; and VP Organizational Management, Anne Martin.

DIRECTOR EMERITA: Elaine Newman, **EX OFFICIO:** Barbara J. Ratner

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Clearinghouse on Women's Issues

Membership Form

womensclearinghouse.org

1. Bring a check, payable to CWI, along with this form to a CWI Meeting or mail to:
Holly Taggart Joseph, CWI Treasurer
8504 Rosewood Drive, Bethesda MD 20814-1434
joseph.holly@gmail.com
2. Or you may also join online using PayPal by going to the membership section of womensclearinghouse.org

For membership questions: Contact VP Membership, Linda Fihelly, lfihelly@hotmail.com or 301-599-1942

NAME of Individual or Organization _____
For Organizations also Provide Name and emails of two PRIMARY REPRESENTATIVES
NAME/Title _____
NAME (Org. Representative 2) _____
ADDRESS _____
CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____
PHONE _____ CELL _____
EMAIL (Org. representative 1) _____
EMAIL (Org. representative 2) _____
WEBSITE ADDRESS: (URL)* _____

Enclosed is a check for CWI membership. Membership year is: **July 1-June 30** (Please fill in beginning and end date). If you pay before July 1 your membership year will start early but still end June 30 of the next year.

_____ **Individual** _____ \$25 for one year _____ \$45 for two years _____ \$65 for three years

_____ **Individual under 30 years old** (\$15/one year)

_____ **Virtual** (\$20/one year) (Email newsletter only for members outside Washington, DC area)

_____ **Organization** (\$40/one year or \$100/three years)

_____ Additional tax-deductible contribution of \$ _____

TOTAL ENCLOSED \$ _____

*If organizational member, indicate if you would like a link to your organization to be listed on CWI's website. (Listing subject to CWI approval) Circle One: ___ YES ___ NO

Membership dues and contributions are tax-deductible to the extent provided by Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.